

power in subverting the present government and setting up the government of the traitors in place thereof. I want no such man to vote—I want no such man to hold office in the State of Maryland. I am bold in avowing it, because I do not believe any such man has a right to vote or to hold office.

The gentleman from Kent threw out an insinuation, to-day, a sort of threat or an intimation at least that we would better mind how we made such stringent laws, because Jeff. Davis might come in, and then we should have to swear the same to him. I fear that reason has operated a good deal on the other side. I fear some other gentlemen are looking to-day, and perhaps have a little expectation or assurance of such a result; and that is one of the reasons why they do not want to take this oath, for fear King Jeff. may ride into power; and some of these voters and office-holders would a great deal rather swear allegiance to his government than to ours.

I have no such fear. I have no such objection to taking this oath. And this is another reason for the oath, because I say that any man who could be induced to hold office under Jeff. Davis' government is unfit to hold office under Abraham Lincoln. We must fight these traitors at home as well as abroad, every man as he best can. Some of us cannot use bullets so well, but as was said to-day we may use ballots, and we may, by our acts here say whether those men who have since this rebellion sympathized entirely with treason shall use them. A good many of them have not only sympathized, but have gone further. I do not of course intimate that any member of this convention has, because they have all taken an oath never directly or indirectly by word, act or deed, to give encouragement to this rebellion. But I know there are men, plenty of them, outside, who have done such things, and who would be the very first to come up and vote, and many of them to hold office in the State, if you do not put in some provision of law to exclude them.

Gentlemen talk of spies, and informers and detectives, and say that with all these things we have all the guards we need. Do they not know that with all our spies and detectives and gunboats, there is blockade running and communion with the south, by which they are informed of all our plans and secrets, and that the south are fed and clothed from Maryland and other loyal States almost as much now as before the war commenced?—Most certainly. We have constantly to be on our watch in this matter, in order that we may, if we wish to protect, and defend, and aid the administration, and protect and defend the government of the United States, trust none with power unless we know they are loyal at heart, for the government of the United States as well as for the government of the State of Maryland.

I was a little amused at the inconsistency

of the gentleman from Somerset (Mr. Jones) this morning. It has been a common thing around the house for gentlemen, after they have denounced Abraham Lincoln as the worst despot in the world, when they have piled epithet upon epithet until the vocabulary was exhausted in the descriptions of the tyrannical despotism of Abraham Lincoln, to acknowledge, many of them, that secession is wrong and not to be justified by the constitution. But never yet has one of them uttered a word of condemnation of Jeff. Davis for all his cruel acts, for his ruthless conscription, for anything that he has done. And when we attempt to pin this or that gentleman, as we did this morning, he flies away to the north and reads great homilies about abolition. That is the answer we get when we want them to be equal and fair and just on all sides.

From such ardent, fervent lovers of free republican government, we should expect to hear something about this ruthless tyranny exhibited in the south, something about the abolition of the *habeas corpus* there, something of the rights the citizens are deprived of there. But not one word have I heard coming from one of these gentlemen upon that side.

And here was the gentleman who was so wonderfully consistent, denouncing Abraham Lincoln in one breath, and in the next breath he was quoting to us his sayings and doings, and calling upon us to follow. The gentleman came here this morning and read extract after extract of what Mr. Lincoln had said, that you never could compel the States by force, that you never could maintain the government by force; and we have had quoted what President Lincoln said about the abolition of slavery and about compensation, when he was ready and willing to aid the States all he could; and it has been thrown in our teeth that we have been going a great deal further than Abraham Lincoln.

Now it seems to me that there have been many changes in this respect. Let me take, as one thing, the policy of the President in relation to domestic affairs, when he wrote message after message recommending to the border States to abolish slavery and promised them, so far as he could by his power and with the aid of Congress, to help them to do it. Does any gentleman doubt that it could have been obtained at that time if the slaveholders had accepted it? Not at all. I rather think it is the gentlemen themselves who have changed in regard to that. Gentlemen spurned the offer. They would not receive a cent for their slaves. Take their property without their consent and then offer to pay them? Gentlemen—slaveholders—hurled it back. I do not think they would hurl it back now, if they could get it.

One of the gentlemen from Prince George's has said here distinctly, and put it on record, that he is against all compensation from the